

1 \_\_\_\_\_ JOINT RESOLUTION NO. \_\_\_\_\_

2 INTRODUCED BY \_\_\_\_\_  
3 (Primary Sponsor)

4 A JOINT RESOLUTION OF THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF  
5 MONTANA URGING MONTANA'S CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION TO INTRODUCE AND SUPPORT  
6 LEGISLATION REQUIRING THE U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS TO INCREASE AND MAINTAIN A  
7 MINIMUM POOL ELEVATION IN FORT PECK RESERVOIR OF 2,226 FEET ABOVE MEAN SEA LEVEL.

8  
9 WHEREAS, due to management of downstream barge traffic by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the  
10 water levels of Fort Peck Reservoir have reached historic lows; and

11 WHEREAS, the low water levels have had an adverse impact on recreational uses of Fort Peck  
12 Reservoir; and

13 WHEREAS, the declining water levels have had an adverse effect on fisheries management of Fort Peck  
14 Reservoir; and

15 WHEREAS, declining reservoir levels are affecting the availability of water for irrigation and other  
16 agricultural uses; and

17 WHEREAS, the ability of Montana water users to exercise their water rights is adversely affected; and

18 WHEREAS, reduced reservoir levels have exposed thousands of acres of land, resulting in an  
19 accelerated spread of noxious weeds; and

20 WHEREAS, the reduced water levels have caused a severe economic impact on all of central and  
21 eastern Montana in that marinas have closed, most boat ramps no longer reach the water and are unusable, and  
22 recreational boaters have limited use of the reservoir, thereby causing an economic disaster for the service  
23 industries of central and eastern Montana that provide food, lodging, fuel, sporting goods, boats, and marinas;  
24 and

25 WHEREAS, studies have concluded that the economic value of barge traffic is approximately \$7 million  
26 annually and the economic value of recreational uses of upstream dams is estimated to be \$85 million annually;  
27 and

28 WHEREAS, the drawdown of the reservoirs on the Missouri River will have an impact on the cost of  
29 electricity to customers that receive power from the Western Area Power Administration; and

30 WHEREAS, restoring the lake level to 2,226 feet above mean sea level will restore most of the



1 recreational uses and will still allow for future flood control.

2

3 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE

4 STATE OF MONTANA:

5 That Montana's Congressional Delegation be strongly urged to introduce and support legislation requiring

6 the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to increase and maintain a minimum pool elevation in Fort Peck Reservoir of

7 2,226 feet above mean sea level.

8

- END -